



**LEGISLATION & PUBLIC
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May 9, 2018

Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Appropriations Committee
California State Assembly
Capitol Building, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2580 (CUNNINGHAM) as amended May 7, 2018– SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

Disability Rights California (DRC), a non-profit advocacy organization that advances and protects the rights of Californians with disabilities, **supports AB 2580 as amended**. This bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Existing law enumerates the requirements for state hearings regarding whether an individual with exceptional needs received a free appropriate public education. This includes a requirement that upon completion of the hearing, a written, reasoned decision be mailed to all parties to the hearing, as provided. Existing law authorizes either party to the hearing to request the hearing officer grant an extension and requires the extension be granted upon a showing of good cause.

AB 2580 creates more specificity around granting continuances for good cause in special education due process hearings.

DRC appreciates that the author adopted our amendment to extend good cause to both sides' material witnesses and not just to the district's employees. This balances out the process and ensures equity for both parents of students with disabilities and schools. For these reasons, we

support the bill as amended on May 7, 2018. Please contact me if you have any questions about our current position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Evelyn M. Abouhassan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evelyn" and middle initial "M." clearly legible, followed by the last name "Abouhassan".

Evelyn Abouhassan
Senior Legislative Advocate
Disability Rights California

cc: Honorable Jordan Cunningham, California State Assembly
Christopher Finarelli, Chief of Staff, Office of Assembly Member
Cunningham
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Natasha Collins, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations
Committee
Robert Becker, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus Committee